EARLY BRISTOL NEWSPAPERS

Sam. Farley's Briſtol

Poſt Man:

OR,

Weekly Intelligence,

From *Holland*, *France*, *Spain*, &c

With General Occurrences, Foreign and Domeſtick.

Saturday, *December* the 31ſt, 1715. [N°. 25.]

NOTE, This Paper will be conſtantly Publiſh'd every Saturday Morning, Two Hours after the London Poſt comes in; carefully Abſtracted from the Gazette, Poſt-Man, Poſt-Boy, and Evening Poſt, with Dormer's and other Written Letters; free from all Party Cauſe, or Perſonal Reflections.

I ſhall always have by me ready Printed, Viz.

Blank Sheriffs Warrants, Ca-ſa's, Outlawries, and Attachments.
Juſtices Warrants and Summons's.
Affidavits for Burying in Woollen.
Poor Warrants, and Warrants of Removal. Alſo,
Warrants againſt prophane Swearers; Poor Warrants, High-Ways, Windows, and Land-Tax.
Blank Appearances for Attorneys.

All Druggiſts and Apothecaries may be Furniſh'd with the Directions and Out ſide Papers for the Venice Treacle.
Elixer Salutis; Daffey's, or Boſtock.
Plain and Golden Spirits of Scurvey-Graſs.
Hungary Water Bills for Bottles.
And Civit-Cat Papers for Hair-powder, White or Blew.

Printed at my Houſe in St. Nicholas-ſtreet, near the Church; Deliver'd to any publick or private Houſe in this City for Three Half-pence a Paper; and ſeal'd and deliver'd for the Country at Two Pence.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL

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EARLY BRISTOL NEWSPAPERS

a detailed catalogue of
Bristol newspapers published
up to and including the
year 1800 in the Bristol
Reference Library

Published and Printed by the
Corporation of Bristol
1956

BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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INTRODUCTION

Until 1695 Parliament kept the closest control on the establishment of printing presses in the provinces but in that year the Licensing Act lapsed and as though to anticipate the decision William Bonny, a London printer, petitioned the Common Council of the city " for liberty to set up a printing press in this city ". On 24 April, 1695 the Common Council agreed to the establishment of such a press and shortly afterwards Bonny set up the first permanent printing house in the city.

At this time Bristol was developing rapidly and Daniel Defoe said that " it was the greatest, the richest, and best port of trade in Great Britain, London only excepted ". It is hardly surprising that such a city found the need for a regular news sheet, and this was provided by Bonny in *The Bristol Post Boy,* of which no copies have been traced before No. 91 dated 5—12 August, 1704. This issue—the oldest extant copy of a provincial newspaper—is in the Bristol Reference Library.

Inevitably competition began with rival newspapers and the first of these, *Sam Farley's Bristol Postman,* established a link between the Farley family and Bristol newspapers that was to be maintained for the greater part of a century.

The subsequent development of early Bristol newspapers can be traced in the pages of this catalogue and in the thesis of Mr. D. F. Gallop entitled *Chapters in the History of the Provincial Newspaper Press* 1700—1855, a copy of which is in the Bristol Reference Library.

It is certain that this collection of early Bristol newspapers is unique and there can be few other cities with collections to rival it. That this should be so is due largely to the benefactions of various citizens and institutions, and particular mention should be made of the Committee of the Commercial Rooms who recently transferred a large file of Bristol newspapers to this library. There remain many gaps and it may be that as a result of this catalogue other benefactors will come forward and so help to make more complete this record of our city's history.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE ENTRIES

These notes outline the procedure followed in preparing the various entries:

I. All newspapers consist of four paged issues unless there is a statement to the contrary.

II. When the title of a newspaper does not mention the frequency of publication, this information is given in brackets following the title, provided that there are sufficient issues extant for it to be given correctly.

III. For newspapers having few missing issues over a period of years, the number and date of the first and last issues held are given in the entry.

IV. The name of the printer or printers is followed by the date of printing. Where information is given in brackets this has been found from a source other than the newspaper. Where there is no printer indicated for certain periods, as in the case of the series of newspapers issued by Andrew Hooke between 1743 and 1749, this is explained in a brief note.

V. The size given is of the first issue held. Any variations in size are dealt with in a separate note.

VI. An issue which is described as being incomplete has one or more leaves missing.

VII. The layout has been varied slightly for those newspapers of which only a few issues are extant over a period of years. Issues have been catalogued separately and arranged in chronological order, followed by a section dealing, where necessary, with missing issues, state of existing issues and faulty numbering. The remainder of the information is given in the same order as for the rest of the newspapers.

CATALOGUE OF EARLY BRISTOL NEWSPAPERS

BRISTOL POST BOY [Weekly]

I. No. 91, August 12, 1704.
W. Bonny: *Bristol.* 1704.
31 cm. x 18.5 cm.

II. No. 281, March 20, 1708.
W. Bonny: *Bristol.* 1708.
28 cm. x 17.5 cm.

III. No. 287, September 10, 1709.
W. Bonny: *Bristol.* 1709.
28.5 cm. x 17.5 cm.

IV. No. 340, August 26, 1710.
W. Bonny: *Bristol.* 1710.
27.5 cm. x 17.5 cm.

All issues are slightly mutilated.

All issues are printed on a single sheet which has two columns on both recto and verso. There is no device used with the title.

The Bristol Post Boy is usually regarded as the first general newspaper published in the provinces of England. The issue for Saturday, August 12, 1704 is the earliest one known, but if the numbering is correct the first number must have appeared in November 1702. The founder was William Bonny, a London printer who applied to the Corporation in 1695 for admission as a Burgess in order that he might set up a printing office. The Bristol Post Boy is believed to have been published until at least 1712.

SAM. FARLEY'S BRISTOL POST MAN; OR, WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE

[No. 24, December 24, 1715] *to* No. 29, January 28, 1716.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1715-1716.
26 cm. x 18.5 cm.

SAM. FARLEY'S BRISTOL POST MAN—*contd.*

Issues for December 24, 1715 ; January 28, 1716 *incomplete.*

Each issue consists of twelve pages, of which the first page only is divided into two columns. The heading includes a woodcut on each side of the title, one showing a mounted post-boy and the other a ship.

In the six issues extant there is a marked improvement on Bonny's Bristol Post Boy both in layout and in the volume of news printed. The paper was issued on a Saturday and by printing it on a sheet and a half Farley evaded payment of the newspaper stamp duty and paid only the small registration duty applicable to pamphlets. Sam. Farley's Bristol Post Man probably continued until 1725, when on April 25 the new stamp duty came into force.

BRISTOL WEEKLY MERCURY

No. 61, December 1, 1716.

Henry Greep: *Bristol.* 1716.

29 cm. x 22.5 cm.

This is a facsimile reprint of the original and is incomplete.

In size and layout the Bristol Weekly Mercury is similar to the Post Man. It bears a large and elaborate imprint and each of the four surviving pages is divided into two columns. The facsimile shows a woodcut of a ship and castle on the right of the title. Another device, probably the figure of Mercury, is supposed to have been on the left, but it is defaced in the original and not reproduced in the facsimile.

Little is known of the history of this newspaper but it is believed to have begun publication in October 1715. Greep continued his work in Bristol until at least 1727 but it is unlikely that the Mercury was still being published at this time.

FARLEY'S BRISTOL NEWSPAPER [Weekly]

I. No. XX, September 18, 1725 *to* No. CXC, December 21, 1728.

[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1725-1728.

27 cm. x 21 cm.

II. No. CCXIII, May 31, 1729.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1729.
30.5 cm. x 22 cm.

III. No. CCXXXII, October 11, 1729.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1729.
30.5 cm. x 22 cm.

IV. No. 257, April 4, 1730.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1730.
30.5 cm. x 22 cm.

V. No. 16, November 21, 1730 *to* No. 17, November 28, 1730.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1730.
30.5 cm. x 22 cm.

VI. No. 55, August 21, 1731.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1731.
30.5 cm. x 22 cm.

VII. No. 130, January 27, 1732-3 [i.e. 1733].
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1733.
30.5 cm. x 22 cm.

I. Issues for March 26, April 2, 1726; June 3, July 22—August 5, October 7, 21, 1727; March 23, April 27, June 15, 22, August 17, December 1728 *wanting;* issues for December 10, 24, 1726; March 4, December 9, 1727; February 10, 1728 *mutilated.*

IV. This issue is mutilated.

This newspaper was published with two columns to each page and had in the heading a woodcut depicting an aerial view of Bristol. Between January 8, 1726 and November 4, 1727 there was an increase in size to 34 cm. x 22 cm. The last issue extant to bear the woodcut is for April 4, 1730, which also is the first issue to bear an arabic number, No. 257. At an unknown date between April 4, 1730 and November 21, 1730, Farley substituted a plain heading for the woodcut and began to number the issues from number 1.

Founded by Samuel Farley, Farley's Bristol Newspaper is generally believed to be the Bristol Post Man in a new guise. It was the only Bristol newspaper in existence at this period and was published on a Saturday.

Continued as: Sam. Farley's Bristol Newspaper.

SAM. FARLEY'S BRISTOL NEWSPAPER [Weekly]

I. No. 191, March 30, 1734.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1734.
30.5 cm. x 24 cm.

II. No. 200, June 1, 1734.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1734.
36 cm. x 24 cm.

III. No. 250, May 17, 1735.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1735.
37 cm. x 23.5 cm.

IV. No. 309, July 3, 1736.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1736.
37 cm. x 23.5 cm.

V. No. 314, August 7, 1736.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1736.
35 cm. x 23 cm.

VI. No. 340, February 12, 1737.
[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1737.
35 cm. x 23 cm.

III. This issue is mutilated.

IV. This issue is mutilated.

VI. This issue is mutilated.

Of the six issues extant, five were published with two columns to each page and with a plain heading. The issue for February 12, 1737, however, shows a layout of three columns.

Sam. Farley's Bristol Newspaper was a continuation of Farley's Bristol Newspaper. It appeared on a Saturday and was the only Bristol newspaper in existence at that time. There is a gap of five years between the last known issue of this paper and the next issue of a Farley paper, *viz.* Farley's Bristol Journal, August 29, 1741.

No. 552, August 29, 1741.

[*Samuel Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1741.

38 cm. x 27.5 cm.

This single issue shows a layout of three columns with a plain heading.

Although there is no printer's name it seems safe to assume that Samuel Farley was the printer of this newspaper, which is without doubt the Bristol Newspaper under a new name rather than a forerunner of the Journal founded by Felix Farley in 1742 or 1743. The date of Samuel Farley's death is not known, but shortly after 1741 his two sons Samuel and Felix, who had joined their father while he was still printing the Bristol Post Man, established themselves as the chief printers of newspapers in Bristol until their deaths in 1753.

F. FARLEY'S BRISTOL JOURNAL [Fortnightly, Weekly]

I. No. 17, March 24, 1743.

[*Felix Farley*]: *Bristol.* 1743.

40 cm. x 27 cm.

II. No. 64, March 23, 1744 *to* No. 1595, December 26, 1747.

Felix Farley: *Bristol.* 1744-1747.

40 cm. x 27 cm.

I. This issue is incomplete.

II. Issues for April 7, September 8, October 6, December 1, 29, 1744 ; January 12—April 6, 1745 ; January 17, May 23, September 19, October 3, November 7, 1747 *wanting* ; issues for October 26, November 23, 1745 ; August 30, 1746 ; June 20, 27, July 4, November 28, 1747 *mutilated* ; issue for July 11, 1747 *incomplete.*

There are numerous errors in numbering: No. 64 is followed by No. 19, six issues bear the number 99, No. 138 is followed by No. 1, which is followed by No. 141 *etc.*, No. 145 is followed by No. 1560 *etc.* During the period when the Journal alternated with the Advertiser the issues are sometimes numbered consecutively and sometimes numbered in conjunction with issues of the Advertiser. The Journal appeared consecutively on September 21 and 28, 1745, and appeared weekly between April 12 and May 24, 1746 and from August 30, 1746 to December 26, 1747.

All issues of F. Farley's Bristol Journal were printed with three columns to each page and with a plain heading. There was no variation in page size during the years that the newspaper appeared.

Towards the end of 1742 Felix Farley began to issue two newspapers which appeared on alternate Saturdays. One of these was F. Farley's Bristol Journal and the other was Farley's Bristol Advertiser. The alternation of the two continued until August 1746 when the Advertiser ceased regular publication and the Journal continued to appear weekly.

Continued as: F. Farley's Bristol Advertiser ;
or, S. Farley's Bristol Journal.

FARLEY'S BRISTOL ADVERTISER [Fortnightly]

I. No. 18, March 31, 1743.
Felix Farley and Comp.: *Bristol.* 1743.
40 cm. x 27 cm.

II. No. 59, February 16, 1744 *to* No. 111, August 23, 1746.
Felix Farley and Comp., February 16, 1744—August 9, 1746;
Felix Farley, August 23, 1746: *Bristol.* 1744-1746.
40 cm. x 26.5 cm.

I. This issue is mutilated.

II. Issues for March 2, 16, June 23, September 1, October 13, 1744 ; January 5—April 27, 1745 ; June 14, 1746 *wanting* ; issues for February 16, July 7, November 24, December 8, 1744 *mutilated.*

There are numerous errors in numbering. The issue for March 30, 1744, No. 65 is followed by the issue for April 14, 1744, which is No. 19. Sometimes the issues are numbered consecutively and at other times they are numbered in conjunction with the issues of F. Farley's Bristol Journal, with which the Advertiser alternated. There was no Advertiser for September 28, 1745. An issue of F. Farley's Bristol Journal bears this date, and the next issue of the Advertiser appeared on October 5, 1745. There were no issues of the Advertiser between April 5, 1746 and May 24, 1746, but during this period F. Farley's Bristol Journal appeared weekly.

This newspaper was set out in the same way as F. Farley's Bristol Journal, with three columns to each page and with a plain heading. There was no variation in size over the years.

Farley's Bristol Advertiser was one of two newspapers founded by Felix Farley towards the end of 1742. It has been asserted that his brother Samuel was responsible for printing the Advertiser, but judging from the imprints of this paper and the other, *viz.* F. Farley's Bristol Journal, Felix seems to have been the dominant partner in the production of both. The alternation of the two continued until August 1746 when the Advertiser ceased regular publication.

F. FARLEY'S BRISTOL ADVERTISER

I. No. 1597, January 9, 1747-8 [i.e. 1748]
Felix Farley: *Bristol.* 1748.
40 cm. x 27 cm.

II. No. 1599, January 23, 1747-8 [i.e. 1748]
Felix Farley: *Bristol.* 1748.
40 cm. x 27 cm.

These two issues were set out in the same way as F. Farley's Bristol Journal and have a layout of three columns with a plain heading.

Judging from the sequence of numbering of F. Farley's Bristol Journal and S. Farley's Bristol Journal, it seems that there were only very few issues bearing the above title.

S. FARLEY'S BRISTOL JOURNAL

No. 1598, January 16, 1747-8 [i.e. 1748]
Sam. Farley: *Bristol.* 1748.
39 cm. x 27 cm.

This is the only issue bearing such a title and has a layout of three columns to each page, with no device in the title.

The paper was published on a Saturday at a time when only one other Bristol newspaper was in existence, *viz.* Bristol Oracle, *etc.*

Continued as: Farley's Bristol Journal.

FARLEY'S BRISTOL JOURNAL [Weekly]

No. 1600, January 30, 1747-8 [i.e. 1748] *to* No. 1604, February 27, 1747-8 [i.e. 1748].

S. and F. Farley: *Bristol.* 1748.

40 cm. x 27 cm.

Issue for February 13, 1748 *wanting.*

Continued on much the same plan as S. Farley's Bristol Journal with three columns to each page and no device in the title.

This paper, which was issued on Saturdays, was printed jointly by the two Farley brothers, Samuel and Felix. The only other Bristol newspaper in existence at this time was the Bristol Oracle, *etc.*

Continued as: Bristol Journal.

BRISTOL JOURNAL [Weekly]

I. No. 1608, March 26, 1748 *to* No. 1681, December 30, 1749.
Samuel and Felix Farley: *Bristol.* 1748-1749.
40.5 cm. x 27 cm.

II. No. 1682, January 5, 1749-50 [i.e. 1750] *to* No. 1703, June 9, 1750.
Samuel and Felix Farley: *Bristol.* 1750.
40 cm. x 28.5 cm.

III. No. 1722, October 27, 1750 *to* No. 1723, November 3, 1750.
Samuel and Felix Farley: *Bristol.* 1750.
41 cm. x 28.5 cm.

IV. No. 2085, April 19, 1755.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1755.
40 cm. x 27.5 cm.

V. No. 2142, May 29, 1756.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1756.
40.5 cm. x 28 cm.

VI. No. 2167, November 20, 1756.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1756.
40.5 cm. x 28.5 cm.

VII. No. 2439, April 3, 1762.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1762.
42.5 cm. x 28 cm.

VIII. No. 2480, January 15, 1763.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1763.
41.5 cm. x 28 cm.

IX. No. 2494, April 23, 1763.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1763.
41.5 cm. x 28 cm.

X. No. 2611, May 18, 1765.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1765.
44 cm. x 29 cm.

XI. No. 2616, June 22, 1765.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1765.
43.5 cm. x 28.5 cm.

XII. No. 2666, May 9, 1767.
S. Farley: *Bristol.* 1767.
43 cm. x 28 cm.

XIII. No. 2751, January 7, 1769 *to* Vol. LXII, No. 3194, July 12, 1777.
S. Farley, January 7, 1769—September 30, 1769; *Sarah Farley,* October 7, 1769—September 9, 1775; *Rouths and Nelson,* September 16, 1775—July 12, 1777: *Bristol.* 1769-1777.
45 cm. x 30 cm.

I. Issues for May 21—October 15, October 29—December 31, 1748; January 14—March 24, April 8, April 22—May 27, June 17—July 22, August 5, 19, 26, September 16, 23, October 14, 21, November 11, 18, 25, 1749 *wanting*; issues for October 22, 1748; August 12, December 2, 1749 *mutilated.*
Number 1608 is used twice.

II. Issues for January 13, February 3, 17, March 24, April 14, May 5, 12, 26, 1750 *wanting*; issue for March 17, 1750 *mutilated.*
Number 1696 is not used.

XIII. Issues for August 19, December 2, 1769 ; May 19, October 27, 1770 ; December 11, 1773 ; December 24, 1774 ; September 14, 1776 *wanting* ; issues for March 24, 1770 ; July 8, 1775 *mutilated.*

The following numbers are used twice: 2963, 2994, 3148 ; the following numbers are not used: 2816, 2964.

The title for the period September 16, 1775—July 12, 1777 reads "The Bristol Journal (Late Sarah Farley's)".

The issue for April 3, 1762 is the first number of the Bristol Journal extant to have a layout of four columns. All earlier numbers have each page divided into three columns. No device is used at any time. The issue for March 9, 1776 is the first one to bear a volume number, *viz.* Vol LXI, No. 3125. The size of the final issue measures 46 cm. x 30 cm.

The early issues of the Bristol Journal were printed jointly by the two Farley brothers, Samuel and Felix, but this partnership terminated in 1752 when Felix founded his own newspaper. Samuel continued to print the Bristol Journal but in 1753 both brothers died and in accordance with Samuel's will the printing of the Bristol Journal was continued by his niece Sarah. Many issues of the newspaper do, however, bear the name S. Farley in the imprint and not Sarah's full name, and it is believed that the printer may have been Samuel Farley, son of Felix. Sarah's name appeared in full on October 7, 1769 and remained in the imprint until September 1775 although she died in July 1774. After her death the newspaper came under the proprietorship of Hester Farley, a near relation of Sarah's, but after little more than a year as proprietor she sold the paper to George and William Routh and Charles Nelson.

Continued as: Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal.

SARAH FARLEY'S BRISTOL JOURNAL [Weekly]

I. Vol. LXII, No. 3195, July 19, 1777 *to* Vol. LXIII, No. 3270, December 26, 1778.
G. and W. Routh: *Bristol.* 1777-1778.
46 cm. x 30.5 cm.

II. Vol. LXVI, No. 3375, January 6, 1781 *to* Vol. LXXXI, No. 4201, December 31, 1796.
G. and W. Routh, January 6, 1781—January 1, 1785 ; *William Routh,* January 8, 1785—May 7, 1791 ; *W. Routh and J. Cassin,* May 14, 1791 — September 3, 1791 ; *W. Routh and H. Peach,* September 10, 1791—May 25, 1793 ; *William Routh,* June 1, 1793—December 31, 1796: *Bristol.* 1781-1796.
46 cm. x 30.5 cm.

III. Vol. LXXXII, No. 4211, March 11, 1797.
William Routh: *Bristol.* 1797.
46 cm. x 31 cm.

IV. Vol. LXXXIII, No. 4271, May 5, 1798 *to* Vol. LXXXIV, No. 4356, December 21, 1799.
W. Routh: *Bristol.* 1798-1799.
50 cm. x 35 cm.

I. Number 3210 is used twice ; number 3220 is not used.

II. Issues for March 3, 10, April 28, May 19, 26, June 2, August 4, 1781 ; January 28, February 11, March 31, 1792 ; September 5, October 17, 1795 ; April 16, May 21, 1796 *wanting* ; issues for April 21, 1781 ; May 1, 1790 ; November 3, 10, 1792 ; August 16, December 27, 1794 ; May 23, 1795 ; January 9, April 23, August 27, September 10, October 15, November 5, 1796 *mutilated.*
Number 3448 is used three times ; the following numbers are used twice: 3397, 3440-3443, 3445-3447, 3449, 3566, 3758, 3919, 3926, 4098-4111 ; the following numbers are not used: 3573-3578, 3635, 3927, 4080-4093.

III. This issue is mutilated.

IV. Issues for June 23, 30, 1798 ; November 23, December 7, 28, 1799 *wanting* ; issues for May 26, December 22, 29, 1798 ; January 12, February 2, April 13, May 4, June 1, October 19, December 21, 1799 *mutilated* ; issue for May 19, 1798 *incomplete.*

There are three special issues of Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal:

1. Bristol Journal Extraordinary, from the London Gazette Extraordinary, December 21, 1777. This is printed in five columns on both sides of a single sheet and measures 49.5 cm. x 38.5 cm.

2. Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal Extraordinary, which contains information from the London Gazette Extraordinary. This single issue bears no date of printing but probably appeared with an ordinary issue in January 1778. It measures 36 cm. x 30 cm.

3. Bristol Journal Extraordinary, from the London Gazette Extraordinary, November 8, 1782. This issue has been mounted and shows only the first side of the single sheet measuring 36 cm. x 30 cm.

Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal is continued on much the same plan as the Bristol Journal, with four columns to each page. A device showing Britannia was incorporated in the title on December 17, 1785 and there was a lively argument at the time as to whether William Routh was copying the idea used by Samuel Bonner in Bonner and Middleton's Bristol Journal, hoping to deceive people into buying his newspaper. A lay-out of five columns was first introduced on June 28, 1788. On the same day a new type face was used for the first time and the device now showed Britannia crowned and bearing on a staff the conical cap of liberty. The cap on the staff was removed after October 20, 1798. The issue for December 21, 1799 measures 50 cm. x 35 cm.

This newspaper, founded originally by the Farley brothers in 1748, has a continuous history of sixty years and was probably second only in popularity to Felix Farley's Bristol Journal.

ORACLE; OR BRISTOL WEEKLY MISCELLANY

Vol. I, No. 1, April 3, 1742 *to* Vol. I, No. 40, December 31, 1742.

Benjamin Hickey, April 3, 1742—December 24, 1742; *J. Watts,* December 31, 1742: *Bristol.* 1742.

39.5 cm. x 26 cm.

ORACLE ; OR BRISTOL WEEKLY MISCELLANY—*contd.*

Issues for June 19, November 13, 20, 1742 *wanting* ; issues for April 3, September 11, December 24, 1742 *mutilated.*

During the period July 17, 1742—December 24, 1742, the title reads: " Oracle ; or, Bristol Weekly Miscellany. By Andrew Hooke, Esq. . . ."

For further information see Bristol Oracle.

Continued as: Bristol Oracle and Country Intelligencer ;
or: Bristol Oracle and Country Advertiser.

BRISTOL ORACLE AND COUNTRY INTELLIGENCER
[Fortnightly]

Vol. I, No. 2, January 22, 1742 [i.e. 1743] *to* Vol. III, No. 60, April 6, 1745.

J. Watts, January 22, 1743—August 6, 1743 ; *A. Hooke,* August 18, 1744—April 6, 1745: *Bristol.* 1743-1745.

39.5 cm. x 26 cm.

Issues for February 5, 19, April 16, May 14, August 20, September 17, October 1, 29, 1743 ; January 7, February 4, 18, May 12, 26, July 7, August 4, September 1, 15, October 13, 27, November 24, 1744 ; March 23, 1745 *wanting* ; issue for January 22, 1743 *mutilated.*

Number 15 is used twice ; number 55 is not used. There are various other mistakes in numbering but owing to the quantity of missing issues it is impossible to give these correctly.

The printer's name does not appear on the issues for September 3, 1743—July 21, 1744. The imprint for the period covered by these dates reads: " Bristol: Printed for A. Hooke, at the sign of the Bible in Shannon Court, Corn Street . . ."
The title on the issue for January 22, 1742 [i.e. 1743] reads " Bristol Oracle and Country Intelligencer. By Andrew Hooke, Esq. . . ."

For further information see Bristol Oracle.

Continued as: Bristol Oracle ;
or: Country Advertiser ;
or: Oracle Country Advertiser.

BRISTOL ORACLE AND COUNTRY ADVERTISER [Fortnightly]

Vol. I, No. 2, January 29, 1742 [i.e. 1743] *to* Vol. III, No. 60, April 13, 1745.

J. Watts, January 29, 1743—July 30, 1743; *A. Hooke,* August 25, 1744—April 13, 1745: *Bristol.* 1743-1745.

39.5 cm. x 26 cm.

Issues for May 21, June 4, 18, August 27, September 10, 1743; January 28, February 25, June 2, July 14, 28, August 11, September 8, October 6, December 15, 1744; March 2, 1745 *wanting*; issue for January 19, 1745 *mutilated.*

Number 45 is used twice. There are other mistakes in numbering but owing to the quantity of missing issues, it is impossible to give these correctly.

The printer's name does not appear on the issues for August 13, 1743—June 30, 1744. The imprint for the period covered by these dates reads: "Bristol: Printed for A. Hooke, at the sign of the Bible in Shannon Court, Corn Street . . ."

The title on the issues for January 29, 1742 [i.e. 1743]—February 12, 1742 [i.e. 1743] reads: "The Bristol Oracle and Country Advertiser. By Andrew Hooke, Esq. . . ."

For further information see Bristol Oracle.

Continued as: Bristol Oracle;
or: Country Advertiser;
or: Oracle Country Advertiser.

BRISTOL ORACLE [Fortnightly]

Vol. I, No. 1, April 20, 1745 *to* Vol. III, No. 65, September 16, 1749.

A. Hooke, April 20, 1745—August 6, 1748: *Bristol.* 1745-1749.

39.5 cm. x 26 cm.

Issues for May 18, September 7, December 14, 1745; April 4, May 2, June 27, September 19, December 12, 26, 1747; January 9, April 2, July 9, 23, August 20, September 3, October 1, October 29—December 24, 1748; January 7—February 4, March 4, 18, August 5, 1749 *wanting*; issues for November 30, 1745; September 20, 1746; June 11, 1748; April 1, 1749 *mutilated.*

Volume number II is not used ; the issue for March 21, 1747, Vol. I, No. 51 is followed by the issue for April 18, 1747, Vol. III, No. 2.

The printer's name does not appear on the issues for September 17, 1748—September 16, 1749. The imprint for the period covered by these dates reads: " Printed for Andrew Hooke in Bristol ".

All titles are issued in a uniform style with three columns to each page of the four-paged issues and without a device in the heading. There is no variation in page size.

Andrew Hooke, one of the most interesting figures in the history of the Bristol press, is believed to have issued his first newspaper on Saturday, April 3, 1742. From the beginning of 1743 until September 1749, when his newspaper ceased publication, the title changed systematically in order to evade the advertisement duty. The title printed on the issue for April 3, 1742, *viz.* Oracle ; or, Bristol Weekly Miscellany, was continued to the end of the year. From then until April 20, 1745 two titles were used alternately: Bristol Oracle and Country Intelligencer, and Bristol Oracle and Country Advertiser. On April 20, 1745 the title was changed to Bristol Oracle, and this alternated with the Country Advertiser until May 18, 1745. From May 25, 1745 until the final issue of Hooke's newspaper on September 16, 1749, the Bristol Oracle alternated with the Oracle Country Advertiser. Several men assisted Hooke in the printing of his series of newspapers and changes in the imprint appeared regularly.

COUNTRY ADVERTISER [Fortnightly]

Vol. I, No. 1, April 27, 1745 *to* Vol. I, No. 2, May 11, 1745.

M. Nayler: Bristol. 1745.

39.5 cm. x 26 cm.

Issue for May 11, 1745 *mutilated.*

The title of the issue for May 11, 1745 reads: " The Country Advertiser [compiled by the author of the Oracle] ".

For further information see Bristol Oracle.

ORACLE COUNTRY ADVERTISER [Fortnightly]

Vol. I, No. 3, May 25, 1745 *to* Vol. III, No. 64, September 9, 1749.

M. Nayler, May 25, 1745—August 13, 1748: *Bristol.* 1745-1749.

39.5 cm. x 26 cm.

Issues for August 3, October 12, November 23, 1745; January 4, March 29, May 24, June 21, July 5, 1746; June 6, August 15, September 26, November 21, 1747; March 12, July 2, 16, 30, August 27, October 8—December 31, 1748; January 7—February 11, March 25, 1749 *wanting;* issue for May 7, 1748 *mutilated.*

Volume number III is not used; the issue for March 28, 1747, Vol. I, No. 51 is followed by the issue for April 11, 1747, Vol. III, No. 1.

The printer's name does not appear on the issues for September 10, 1748—September 9, 1749. The imprint for the period covered by these dates reads: "Printed for Andrew Hooke in Bristol".

For further information see Bristol Oracle.

BRISTOL WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER

No. I, September 23, 1749 *to* No. 169, December 30, 1752.

E. Ward: *Bristol.* 1749-1752.

40 cm. x 27 cm.

Issues for February 10, 1750; March 30, April 20, 27, May 25, July 6, 13, 20, August 24, December 14, 1751; February 22, 29, July 4, November 11, 1752 *wanting*; issues for May 4, 1751; August 15, December 30, 1752 *mutilated.*

The numbers 29 and 66 are used twice; number 68 is not used.

The issue for Saturday, August 29, 1752, No. 153 is followed by the issue for Saturday, September 16, 1752, No. 154. This is because of the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar.

Each page is divided into three columns and there is no variation in size.

The first issue of the Bristol Weekly Intelligencer, a newspaper founded by Edward Ward, appeared on September 23, 1749, one week after the last issue of the Bristol Oracle. The history of Ward's newspaper after 1752 is very obscure and it is believed to have ceased publication in or about the year 1758. Its failure may be attributed to the successful competition of the two established Journals.

FELIX FARLEY'S BRISTOL JOURNAL [Weekly]

Vol. I, May 2, 1752 *to* Vol. LI, No. 2699, December 27, 1800.

[*Felix Farley,* May 2, 1752—April 1753 ; *Elizabeth Farley,* 1753-1757 ; *E. Farley and Son,* 1758 ; *Elizabeth Farley,* 1759-1767 ; *T. Cocking,* 1767]—March 19, 1785 ; *Cocking and Rudhall,* March 26, 1785—July 28, 1787 ; *J. Rudhall,* August 4, 1787—April 5, 1788 ; *J. Rudhall and Co.,* April 12, 1788—May 1, 1790 ; *J. Rudhall,* May 8, 1790—November 6, 1790 ; *T. Cole,* November 13, 1790—February 25, 1792 ; *J. Rudhall,* March 3, 1792—December 27, 1800: *Bristol.* 1752-1800.

40 cm. x 28 cm.

Issues for July 5, 1766 ; May 9, July 25, August 1, 1767 ; July 2, 30, August 13, October 15, November 26, 1768 ; August 26, December 2, 1769 ; October 27, 1770 ; January 5, April 13, 20, 1771 ; June 1, 1793 *wanting* ; issues for January 6, 1753 ; July 6, 1754 ; November 1, 1760 ; May 14, October 22, 1768 ; January 27, 1781 *mutilated* ; issue for September 28, 1754 *incomplete.*

The following numbers are used twice: 1279, 1323, 1716, 1717, 1802, 2148, 2192, 2273, 2293, 2302-2306, 2308-2319, 2680-2682, 2684, 2696 ; the following numbers are not used: 1341, 1510-1599, 1670-1699, 1756-1758, 1803, 2102, 2274, 2412, 2423, 2538 ; the numbers 24201, 24202 (2 issues bear this number) are used in error for 2421-2422. The first numbered issue is that for September 10, 1774, Vol. XXIV, No. 1230, which is also the first issue to bear a printer's name, that of T. Cocking. Volume number XXXV is not used ; the issue for April 2, 1785, with volume XXXIV, is followed by the issue for April 9, 1785, with volume number XXXVI.

The issue for Saturday, August 29, 1752 is followed by the issue for Saturday, September 16, 1752. This is because of the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar.

Until April 24, 1762 this newspaper was printed with three columns to each page. Division of each page into four columns was first made on this date and a device consisting of the city arms was added to the title. The area of print was slightly increased on September 10, 1774, on which date also an entirely new type face was used for the first time. Another range of founts in a different type face was purchased for use in the paper in May 1786. A more elaborate version of the city arms including the motto " Virtute et industria "

was printed in the title in January 1790 and yet another version appeared on June 8, 1793. Division of each page into five columns was first made on June 3, 1786. There was frequent variation in the size of the newspaper and the last issue for 1800 measures 49.5 cm. x 34 cm.

The first issue of this Journal founded by Felix Farley was printed on Saturday, March 28, 1752 and the newspaper was destined to become one of the foremost in Bristol. It is interesting to note that for many years after 1753 Felix Farley's Bristol Journal, like its rival the Bristol Journal, had a woman proprietor. The newspaper had a long history and retained its title until 1853 when it became amalgamated with another Bristol newspaper, the Bristol Times.

BRISTOL CHRONICLE; OR, UNIVERSAL MERCANTILE REGISTER [Weekly]

Vol. I, No. 1, January 5, 1760 *to* Vol. II, No. 80, July 11, 1761.

John Graham, January 5, 1760—March 22, 1760; *John Graham and William Pine,* March 29, 1760—December 27, 1760; *William Pine,* January 3, 1761—July 11, 1761: *Bristol.* 1760-1761.

29 cm. x 20 cm.

Each issue of this newspaper consisted of one sheet divided into eight pages and numbered consecutively for each volume, although there are many errors. During 1760 the paper was printed with two columns to each page but this was increased to three columns on January 3, 1761. There is an index to the volume for 1760 giving page and column references.

When the Bristol Weekly Intelligencer ceased publication in 1758 the number of newspapers printed in the city was reduced to two, and the Bristol Chronicle, which was issued on Saturdays, was probably started to fill the gap.

Continued as: Bristol Chronicle and Mercantile Register.

BRISTOL CHRONICLE AND MERCANTILE REGISTER

Vol. II, No. 96, November 7, 1761.

William Pine: *Bristol.* 1761.

41.5 cm. x 29 cm.

This single issue contains four folio pages, in contrast to the eight paged issues of the Bristol Chronicle ; or, Universal Mercantile Register. The proprietor had been advised by his friends to change the format in order to make the advertisements more conspicuous. Each page is divided into four columns.

It is not known how long the Chronicle continued after this change in format. This is the last copy extant and it is believed that its career after this date was short-lived.

BRISTOL GAZETTE AND PUBLIC ADVERTISER [Weekly]

I. Vol. IV, No. 190, March 28, 1771 *to* Vol. XIV, No. 694, December 28, 1780.
William Pine: *Bristol.* 1771-1780.
46 cm. x 30.5 cm.

II. Vol. XIV, No. 696, January 11, 1781.
William Pine: *Bristol.* 1781.
47.5 cm. x 31.5 cm.

III. Vol. XVI, No. 795, December 5, 1782.
William Pine: *Bristol.* 1782.
47.5 cm. x 31.5 cm.

IV. Vol. XVI, No. 806, February 20, 1783.
William Pine: *Bristol.* 1783.
48.5 cm. x 31.5 cm.

V. Vol. XVII, No. 853, January 29, 1784.
William Pine: *Bristol.* 1784.
47.5 cm. x 31.5 cm.

VI. Vol. XIX, No. 959, February 23, 1786.
William Pine: *Bristol.* 1786.
48.5 cm. x 32 cm.

VII. Vol. XIX, No. 969, May 4, 1786.
William Pine: *Bristol.* 1786.
48.5 cm. x 32 cm.

VIII. Vol. XX, No. 1004, December 7, 1786.
William Pine: *Bristol.* 1786.
47 cm. x 31 cm.

IX. Vol. XX, No. 1010, January 18, 1787 *to* Vol. XXXIII, No. 1682, December 26, 1799.
William Pine, January 18, 1787—December 25, 1794; *William Pine and Son,* January 1, 1795—December 26, 1799: *Bristol.* 1787—1799.
47 cm. x 31 cm.

X. Vol. 33, No. 1689, February 13, 1800.
William Pine and Son: *Bristol.* 1800.
49.5 cm. x 35 cm.

I. Issues for May 30, July 18, 1771; December 24, 1772; March 10, 17, 24, April 14, 21, June 30, July 7, 21, August 4, October 13, 20, 1774; February 16, 23, September 7, 21, 1775; April 11, November 14, 1776; January 23, June 26, 1777; August 20, 1778 *wanting*; issues for May 22, 1777; October 22, 1778; June 3, July 8, October 14, December 23, 1779 *mutilated.*

Number 459 is used three times; the following numbers are used twice: 205, 210, 320, 325, 380, 389-396, 434, 457, 458, 661, 669; the following numbers are not used: 202, 324, 351-354, 403, 404, 483, 515-520.

III. This issue is mutilated.

IX. Issues for February 1, March 1, 15, 22, April 12, 19, 26, May 10—July 19, 1787; December 28, 1797 *wanting*; issues for January 18, February 8, March 29, 1787; June 23, 1791; November 1, 1792; January 10, April 25, 1793; October 16, 1794; June 9, 1796; March 9, December 14, 1797; March 29, 1798; December 19, 26, 1799 *mutilated*; issue for January 3, 1793 *incomplete.*

Number 1204 is used four times; the following numbers are used twice: 1159, 1167-1175, 1179, 1196, 1209, 1213, 1216, 1219, 1231, 1235, 1244, 1263, 1267, 1292, 1333, 1341, 1384, 1388, 1390, 1408, 1415, 1416, 1431, 1433, 1434, 1502, 1670; the following numbers are not used: 1372, 1392, 1527-1560.

X. This issue is mutilated.

There is in addition to the usual issue for December 18, 1777, a special number which is similar in format to the normal issues.

The earliest known copies of the Gazette are printed with four columns to each page, division into five columns being made for the first time on August 21, 1777. The Bristol Gazette never had a device incorporated in its title. The size of the page was increased on September 12, 1793 to 49.5 cm. x 34 cm.

Founded at an unknown date in 1767 by William Pine, the Bristol Gazette differed from its contemporaries in that it was published weekly on Thursday instead of on Saturday. Circulation figures show that the Gazette was never a very prosperous paper when compared with its rivals. Its end is particularly obscure and it is presumed that publication ceased in 1872.

BONNER AND MIDDLETON'S BRISTOL JOURNAL

[Weekly]

Vol. I, No. 8, October 1, 1774 *to* Vol. XXVII, No. 1373, December 27, 1800.

Bonner and Middleton, October 1, 1774—September 27, 1783 ; *S. Bonner,* October 4, 1783—December 27, 1800: *Bristol.* 1774—1800.

46 cm. x 30.5 cm.

Issue for October 5, 1776 *wanting* ; issues for November 11, 18, 25, 1775 ; December 16, 1780 ; January 4, August 2, December 20, 27, 1800 *mutilated* ; issue for May 25, 1776 *incomplete.*

The following numbers are used twice: 310-313, 318, 892-894, 1180-1189, 1294 ; the following numbers are not used: 284-287, 363, 707, 897, 898, 976, 1046-1048, 1068, 1255, 1256.

The earliest known copies have a layout of four columns, and the heading bears a device of Britannia with the city arms on the shield. A slightly altered version of Britannia appeared in the paper on June 18, 1785 and in the following January Bonner's name was placed above it as a canopy, but was removed again after July 14, 1798. On June 28, 1788 the paper was first printed with five columns to each page. The size of the paper varied little over the years: the last issue for 1800 measures 48 cm. x 32 cm.

BONNER AND MIDDLETON'S BRISTOL JOURNAL—*contd.*

The first issue of this newspaper founded by Samuel Bonner and Richard Middleton appeared in August 1774, at a time when three other Bristol newspapers were flourishing. Like two other of its contemporaries, it was issued on a Saturday. It has a long history, having retained its original title until 1804, and being continued under various other titles well into the nineteenth century.

BEE AND SKETCHLEY'S WEEKLY ADVERTISER

Vol. I, No. 1, October 27, 1777 *to* Vol. I, No. 10, December 30, 1777.

J. Sketchley: *Bristol.* 1777.

39 cm. x 24 cm.

Issue for December 30, 1777 *mutilated.*

All issues have six pages, each page being divided into three columns. A circular device is employed in the heading consisting of a bee enclosed by the words " I cull the choicest of the sweets."

The following appears in the first number of Bee and Sketchley's Weekly Advertiser: " Notwithstanding there are already four respectable newspapers in this city, it is the opinion of many, that a magazine or repository for the reception of advertisements, essays, &c. published on a Monday, is still wanted (there being near five days space between the publication of the Saturday and Thursday newspapers) . . . An attempt to add another newspaper to those already published would be fruitless . . . It appearing nevertheless expedient for the reasons above given to institute an additional publication, for the purposes of literary amusement and advertisements, the proprietor of the Bee and Weekly Advertiser, in order to accommodate the town in these essential particulars, submits the present undertaking to its candour and encouragement, which he humbly hopes to receive, as nothing but a very large impression sold can support this undertaking, at the very low price it is fixed at, *viz.* One penny ".

It is not known how long this publication survived after 1777.

BRISTOL MERCURY AND UNIVERSAL ADVERTISER
[Weekly]

Vol. I, No. 1, March 1, 1790 *to* Vol. VIII, No. 418, February 26, 1798.

Bulgin and Rosser: *Bristol.* 1790—1797.

48 cm. x 32 cm.

Issues for January 7, 14, 21, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 25, April 1, December 2, 1793 ; September 8, 15, 1794 ; April 20, 27, May 11, June 22, November 30, December 7, 28, 1795 ; March 14, 21, 28, May 16, 1796 ; May 29, June 26, July 3, December 11, 1797 *wanting* ; issues for May 31, 1790 ; March 14, 21, August 1, 1791 ; October 29, November 5, December 3, 1792 ; October 28, 1793 ; February 24, 1794 ; January 5, 1795 ; January 18, 1796 *mutilated* ; issues for December 24, 1792 ; January 28, 1793 *incomplete.*

There is a special issue of the Bristol Mercury dated October 2, 1798 containing information from the London Gazette Extraordinary. It has been mounted showing one side only, and has a layout of four columns. The page size is 37 cm. x 30 cm.

The early issues of the Bristol Mercury have four columns to each page but the proprietors found it necessary almost at once to increase the area of print. Division of each page into five columns was first made in January 1793. The same device is used with the title in all issues. The size of the issue for February 26, 1798 is 50.5 cm. x 34.5 cm.

This newspaper was first published on Monday, March 1, 1790, under the proprietorship of William Bulgin and Robert Rosser, at a time when four other newspapers were being printed in the city. It was begun in response to numerous expressions of opinion in favour of a Monday paper.

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Sir,

Briſtol, Dec. 25. 1715.

Since our laſt, we have receiv'd Five Mails from Flanders *with the following Advices.*